



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Friday
October 24,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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These ASCC students had their official welcome into the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society during the induction ceremony this past Friday evening.
(Photo: E. Reupena/Samoa News)

ASCC PHI THETA KAPPA SOCIETY ANNOUNCES NEW INDUCTEES

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The Alpha Epsilon Mu Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) held its induction ceremony this past Friday to announce its new members for the Fall 2006 semester. Family and friends of the new and current PTK members joined ASCC administrators and faculty for an intimate ceremony to induct 15 of the College's "best and brightest" into the prestigious Honor Society.

Former Miss American Samoa Lupe Kenape Aumavae, herself a PTK alumnus, provided the keynote speech for the occasion. Ms Aumavae based her speech on a poem by world renown South African freedom champion Nelson Mandela titled "Powerful Beyond Measure," an idea which also provided the theme for the evening's ceremonies. Mandela originally read the poem in 1994 as part of a speech to a country struggling to overcome a legacy of apartheid (forced racial segregation), but as Ms. Aumavae explained, Mandela's ideas about human potential could just as easily apply to individuals anywhere struggling to bring out the very best in themselves. To quote the first three lines: "Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate/ Our greatest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure/ It is our light not our darkness that frightens us." At the conclusion of the poem, Mandela encourages his listeners to overcome their own apprehensions and shyness with the thought, "As we are liberated from our own fear/ Our presence automatically liberates others."

With these inspiring thoughts still fresh in the audience's mind, the PTK officers announced this semester's new members:

FALL 2006 INDUCTEES: Aileen A. Fa'afili, Henry Fa'alolo, Le'aniva Fanene, Crystal Ho Ching, Eti Lauatua'a, Alex A. Lin, Ningjin Miao, Anastasha Oloaga, Fiatagata Pulou, Tupou Sia, Delores Tautolo-Galea'i, Catherine Tautolo-Fa'agogo, Iliganoa Tuilosega, Noelani Tuu, and Fialoa Elisara.

PRESENT MEMBERS: Fa'amoana Roe (President), Tammy Emmsley (Vice President), Herrieta Moles (Secretary/Treasurer), Edna Maetaanoa (Representative), Aoatoa Afuola, Jonathan Crichton, Rosita Esene, Deidre Estron, Radiant Fuimaono, Deidre Harrington, Eleanor Hisatake, Christopher Ibasco, Shinar Ieti, Selaima Larkin, Josephine Lees, Annie Ma'ae, Tuloto Mamea, David Matautia, Faiane Miller, Annamalia Roche, and Foaga Sasagi.

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes and encourages excellence in scholarship among associate degree students. The Greek words Phi Theta Kappa mean wisdom (Phi), aspiration (Theta) and purity (Kappa). The society bases its programs on four Hallmarks: Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship.

(Continued on page 2)

EPA & Local Business Cooperates to Deal with Discovered Illegal Pesticides

(ASEPA PRESS RELEASE) Officials from the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) discovered 158 containers of non-EPA registered pesticides, known as Happy Soak, at Cost-U-Less warehouse in Tafuna. Upon discovery, a stop sale and removal order was issued to Cost-U-Less on the sale and distribution of an unregistered product. Moreover, the order required Cost-U-Less to remove the Happy Soak product from its shelves and arrange for immediate removal from the Territory.

Although, Happy Soak is legal for sale in other countries, it is considered illegal to be sold and distributed in the United States and its Territories. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), all pesticide products must be registered with the USEPA before it is distributed or sold. Registered pesticides are issued EPA Registration Numbers (EPA REG. No), which are printed on the pesticide product label. The registration requirements were implemented to avoid the adverse effects of pesticides on human health, the environment, food crops, groundwater resources, non-targeted pests and our quality of life. The unregistered product discovered at Cost-U-Less was manufactured in Australia.

According to Fa'amao Asalele, Air & Land Program Manager, ASEPA, "The management and staff of Cost-U-Less were very cooperative, as reflected by their prompt response to the stop sale and removal order." Only seven days after the issuance of the stop sale and removal order, all 158 containers of the unregistered pesticide product were shipped to Samoa, via the Lady Naomi. As a result of their efforts, no fines or penalties were sought in connection to this violation.

As the primary regulatory entity for the importation, sale and distribution, handling and disposal, as well as the storage and application of pesticides, EPA strives to work with business and community members to promote pesticide awareness. The Director of ASEPA, Fanuatele, Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e commends the owner(s), management and staff of Cost-U-Less for their cooperation and timely response in the removal of unregistered pesticides from our Territory. The Director also strongly advises local merchants and pesticide importers to contact ASEPA for assistance in the verification of pesticides prior to importation to the Territory.

Should you have any questions about this, or other ASEPA programs, please contact our office at 633-2304.

Contact: person: Malelega Tuiolosega, Program Manager, Public Awareness & Education

PO Box PPA

Pago Pago, AS 96799

Tel: 684-633-2304 Fax: 684-633-5801

ASCC PHI THETA KAPPA SOCIETY

(continued from page 1)

The society provides more than \$35 million worth of scholarships annually to students nationwide. Each member is automatically nominated for inclusion in the prestigious National Dean's List, and is also enrolled in the PTK Transfer Database, which links senior institutions across the nation offering scholarships to PTK members.

Every semester, PTK advisors Jim Sutherland, Tafaimamao Mamea and Penelope Utu review the ASCC Dean's List and other relevant data to determine which students qualify for the membership in the Society. Candidates must have taken at least 12 credits, passed their English 150, English 151 and Math 90 classes, and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Qualifying students receive an invitation to join PTK, and most of those invited readily accept the offer.

For more information about the nationwide activities of Phi Theta Kappa, visit their website at: www.ptk.org.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On October 13, 1915, Tupua Tamasese Lealofi I died and was buried at Mulinu'u.

On October 13, 1954, solo sailor William Willis, aboard his raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, sighted Tutuila 20 miles SSW of his position. He decided to attempt a landing in "British [i.e., Western] Samoa," which had 200 miles of coastline, and thus afforded a larger target.

On October 14, 1954, the American Samoa Government's vessel *Mann'atele* sighted William Willis's raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, and towed it into Pago Pago Harbor.

On October 14, 1974, John Morse Haydon completed his term as American Samoa's ninth appointed civil governor.

On October 15, 1904, the U.S. Government purchased a parcel of land at Blunts Point for the construction of an observatory.

On October 15, 1954, William Willis entered Pago Pago Harbor at 0100, having completed a 6700-mile solo journey from Callao, Peru at age 61 on his raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, which was towed into the harbor by the MV *Mann'atele*.

On October 15, 1956, Richard B. Lowe ended his term as American Samoa's fifth appointed civil governor (since October 1, 1953), and was succeeded by Peter Tali Coleman, who was American Samoa's only appointed Samoan governor, and the longest-serving governor in the Territory's history.

On October 15, 1974, Frank C. Mockler began his term as American Samoa's tenth appointed civil governor (acting: until February 6, 1975).

On October 16, 1877, Samoa's first mail service was inaugurated, as advertised in the "*Samoa Times: Navigator's Islands*." The notice read: "Mail Notice. A mail will be made up at this office to go by the schooner 'Energy' on Wednesday the 16th inst. for New Zealand, the Australian colonies, Europe and America. Mail will close at 6 a.m. W.E. Agar, Manager." The "Samoa Express" issued stamps in denominations of 1, 3 and 6 pence.

On October 16, 1897, Mauga Manuma, co-signer of the first American-Samoan treaty with Commander Richard Meade of USS *Narragansett* on March 2, 1872, died in Pago Pago.

On October 16, 1941, the Navy's six-inch guns at Breakers Point, Tutuila fired 20 rounds at a stationary raft in Pago Pago Harbor.

On October 16, 1956, Peter Tali Coleman began his term as American Samoa's sixth appointed civil governor, and first Samoan governor (until May 24, 1961).

On October 17, 1954, the honorary title "*Tautai 'o le Vasa Laolao*" ("Captain of the High Seas") was bestowed upon William Willis in American Samoa. He donated his raft *The Seven Little Sisters* to the Museum of American Samoa, which did not yet exist. The logs, neglected, subsequently deteriorated on the beach at Fagatogo.

On October 17, 1960, American Samoa's newly approved constitution became effective.

On October 18, 1966, President Lyndon Baines Johnson and First Lady Claudia Alta Taylor ("Lady Bird") Johnson visited American Samoa. Mrs. Johnson dedicated the "*Manulele Tausala*" ("Lady Bird") Elementary School in Nu'uuli, which was named after her. (Lyndon Johnson was the only U.S. President to visit American Samoa. Mrs. Johnson was the second First Lady to visit the Territory. The first was (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt, on August 23, 1943). (Note: President Johnson's speech on this special visit will be printed in its entirety in the next issue of Tapuitema.)

On October 19, 1965, 16-year-old Robin Lee Graham, with two cats aboard, arrived in Apia Harbor on his small sailboat *Dore*, during his solo circumnavigation of the globe.

On October 20, 1905, the first "Meeting of Native Representatives of the United States Naval Station Tutuila" took place at the Court House in Fagatogo, American Samoa. Governor Charles Brainard Taylor Moore presided; the opening prayer was delivered by Chaplain J.B. Frazier. Moore welcomed the chiefs, saying "I am sure that during the year 1905, progress has been made in this Colony not only in the matter of accumulation of wealth, but in the matter of the understanding of government, obedience to the law, and the value of moral practices." Commander Moore "counseled against long speeches, citing the number of important subjects that needed to be discussed. The meeting was over in a few hours."

More Historical Notes:

On October 22, 1913, Acting Chief Nurse Mary H. Humphreys and Nurse Corinne Anderson of the U.S. Navy's Nurse Corps arrived for duty at the Samoan Hospital in American Samoa. **On October 21, 1819**, French navigator Louis de Freycinet sighted Rose Atoll, and, unaware that Jacob Roggeveen had discovered it on June 13, 1722 and had named it *Vuile Eylandt* ("Bird Island") named it after his wife Rose Marie, who was an illegal passenger on his ship *Uranie*.

On October 21, 1819, French navigator Louis de Freycinet sighted Rose Atoll, and, unaware that Jacob Roggeveen had discovered it on June 13, 1722 and had named it *Vuile Eylandt* ("Bird Island") named it after his wife Rose Marie, who was an illegal passenger on his ship *Uranie*.

On October 24, 1912, President William Howard Taft commissioned Commander William Michael Crose as "Governor of American Samoa." Prior to this, American Samoa's governors had been commissioned as "Governor of Tutuila," which, Crose felt, was a slight to the Manu'ans.

On October 24, 1920, Eli Hutchinson Jennings, Jr. died and was buried on Swains Island.

On October 24, 1920, Ann Eliza Jennings (Mrs. Irving Heatherington Carruthers), with her brother, Alexander Hutchinson Jennings, became the joint proprietor of Swains Island, following the death of their father, Eli Hutchinson Jennings, Jr. "King Jennings."

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT OR AMEND RULES

Pursuant to American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA) 4.1001 et seq., the Development Band of American Samoa (DBAS) intends to adopt a Procurement Manual. Interested members of the public may review these documents and/or present their written comments on the same at the DBAS CEO's office located at the DBAS Building at Pago Pago, American Samoa from Wednesday, October 11, 2006 until Wednesday, November 8, 2006. DBAS is normally open for business Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Ms. Mary Malauulu at telephone number (684) 633-4031.

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with our ASG workforce

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Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other

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Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.

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or

Vince Iuli @ 733-1041

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ASCC/CNR Works to Increase Taro Diversity in American Samoa

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Strong winds and the ever-present threat of rain did not deter the staff of the Community & Natural Resources (CNR) division of the American Samoa Community College from holding their Taro Taste Test this past Thursday at the Avegalio family farm in Pava'ia'i. About 20 local farmers joined CNR staff for the lunchtime event, during which everyone took the opportunity to taste test five different strains of taro cultivated over the last seven months.

CNR hopes to introduce into American Samoa taro from different places to increase genetic diversity. Taro cultivation in American Samoa has proved a major challenge since the arrival of the taro leaf blight (*lega*) more than 10 years ago. "We traced the beginning of the blight to Aloau in July, 1993. Because of the cold, windy and wet conditions that winter, and the susceptibility of the Samoan taro plants to the blight, the disease spread like wildfire across the rest of Tutuila, and taro crops looked like they had literally melted into the ground," recalled Horticulturalist and Acting Agriculture Extension Program Manager Larry Hirata. "Very little taro cultivation took place here for the next five years, until we obtained the Palau taro varieties with a resistance to the disease and production once again increased. With this project, we want to increase genetic diversity among taro to ensure that diseases like taro leaf blight never again have this kind of disastrous effect on our lifestyle."

This most recent CNR taro field trial involved seven tissue-cultured hybrids (offspring of two different parents), two from neighboring Samoa, two from the Philippines, two from Malaysia and one from Indonesia. The Avegalio family volunteered the use of their Pava'ia'i farm for the seven-month project, with Edward "Kuki" Avegalio acting as the farmer/cooperator with CNR. Plant Pathologist Fred Brooks explained that the taro varieties originated from the Regional Germplasm Centre in Suva, Fiji, arriving as "plantlets" tiny enough for transportation in sterilized containers the size of a pill bottle. First, Plant Tissue Culturist Emily Ilaoa maintained and multiplied the plantlets, then Brooks transferred them to the greenhouse to test for disease resistance, and finally the taro, when big enough for transplanting, went out to the farm.

Brooks continued to monitor the taro over the next seven months, explaining that, "Hopefully, test results from the greenhouse will mirror results in the field. If they do, plant breeders and others can evaluate leaf blight resistance of new plants after two months in the greenhouse, instead of six months in the field. This project will introduce taro hybrids that differ genetically, offering some assurance that a new disease will not affect all of them to the same degree. In the long run, new, good-tasting taro may increase taro consumption in the territory, especially among the younger 'fast-food' set, and keep traditional agriculture alive. If you agree that the rapidly growing, relatively isolated population may find themselves dependent on local taro production in times of disaster, then you could consider this project a move towards food security."

During his introductory remarks on the taste testing, Acting Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta expressed his appreciation to all of the CNR staff who contributed to this project, and especially the Avegalio family for offering the use of their farm. Areta also thanked CNR Director Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Mageo Aga and ASCC President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i, both off island at the time, for their support of the project. Brooks later added that special recognition should go to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Germplasm Center and the countries with taro breeding programs in Southeast Asia and the Pacific for supplying the fruits of their labor, literally, in the form of these new hybrids, and to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) for funding the project.



CNR staff display varieties of disease-resistant taro at the Taro Taste Test this past Thursday at the Avegalio family farm in Pava'ia'i. (L-R) Horticulturalist Larry Hirata, Extension Agent Alfred Peters, Plant Pathologist Fred Brooks, Plant Tissue Culturist Emily Ilaoa, Kuki Avegalio and Acting CNR Director Aufa'i Areta
(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

**Governor
Togiola
Tulafono**

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

On:

Showers of Blessings-

FM 104.7

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